

REMARKS

In Applicants' previous paper dated October 23, 2008, Applicants requested the cancellation of claims 2, 3, 6, 10, and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, leaving claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, and 11-16 under examination and claims 18-28 withdrawn from consideration. In this paper, Applicants have added claims 29 and 30. When these claims have been entered, the claims under examination will be claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, 11-16, 29 and 30.

Support for new claim 29 is found throughout the specification [e.g., see WO 2005/000347 at p. 7, lines 1-3, which states that “[t]he degree of de-O-acetylation [that] is achieved by this process is complete, as measured by H-NMR spectroscopy. Optionally, the de-O-acetylated polysaccharide may be subjected to acid hydrolysis.”].

Support for claim 30 is found in original claim 1, which specifies that “the degree of de-O-acetylation is greater than 80%”. Support is also found in WO 2005/000347 at p. 8, lines 14-19, which recites a process for producing a group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment, the process comprising the steps of base hydrolysis of the polysaccharide, subsequent acid hydrolysis of the polysaccharide, and optionally re-N-acetylation of the polysaccharide. Additional support is found in WO 2005/000347 at original claim 3 and p. 9, lines 10-13, which collectively provide support for the claimed polysaccharide molecular weight range of “about 5 to about 150 kDa.” Support is also found at Table 2 of WO 2005/000347, which describes an immunogenic conjugate molecule comprising O-acetyl negative group Y meningococcal polysaccharide covalently attached to tetanus toxoid.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In the event that the Examiner believes that issues exist that can be resolved by telephone conference, or that any formalities can be corrected by an Examiner's Amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (212) 827-4318 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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